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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS

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CURRENT SERIAL RECORD

MAY 13 1944

March 5, 1943

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 478

EXPORTABLE WOOL SUPPLY INCREASES IN SOUTH AMERICA. The U.S. Board of Economic Warfare estimates that Argentina will have an exportable surplus of 60,000 to 70,000 tons of high-grade wool in 1943; Uruguay, 60,000 tons; Chile, 14,000 tons; Peru, about 3,300 tons. Movement of this wool to textile mills is determined in large part by shipping conditions. The United States, through the Defense Supplies Corporation, has purchased 30,000 bales of wool from Uruguay, representing the carry-over from the 1941-42 crop, and has in effect guaranteed a market for about 37,000 bales from the 1942-43 crop to help maintain Uruguayan economy. Peru is expected to have available more than 4,000 tons of alpaca wool, now in demand for manufacture into wool clothing for airplane crews. (Foreign Commerce Weekly)

SUCHIATE BRIDGE LINKING MEXICO AND GUATEMALA has brought Mexico a revenue of 2,500,000 pesos during the first three months it has been in service. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

ORANGE-OIL INDUSTRY DEVELOPED IN BRAZIL. When Brazilian orange growers could no longer ship oranges to England, plans were made to start factories in Sao Paulo for the manufacture of orange oil from the excess fruit. By the end of 1942 there were 144 such plants in operation and 150 tons had been shipped to the United States. The American Brazilian Association estimates that total production has been around 500 tons. (Foreign Commerce Weekly)

ROBERT BRUER EN ROUTE TO BRAZIL to make a comprehensive study of Brazilian manpower as a supplement to the recent survey of that country's economy made by a United States mission. The announcement was made by Morris L. Cooke, chairman of the United States technical mission which visited Brazil. When? Cooke and the members of his mission are preparing a confidential report on their survey which will be used by Government officials active in the present economic collaboration between Brazil and the United States. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

PRESIDENT OF EXPORT-IMPORT BANK TOURS INDUSTRIAL CENTERS OF BRAZIL. Warren Lee Pierson is scheduled to visit the far west States of Goyaz and Matto Grosso, both of which contain great wealth of minerals, pastures, and cattle. (N.Y. Times)

U.S. AND CHILE SIGN LEND-LEASE PACT. The agreement, signed by Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles and the Chilean Ambassador, Rodolfo Michels, was described by the State Department as similar to those between the United States and other nations in the mutual - aid program. (N.Y. Times)

PLANES COLLECT RUBBER FROM COLOMBIAN JUNGLE. Airplanes are bringing two tons of raw rubber daily, and the same planes are keeping thousands of workers supplied with food and other needs. Colombia grants tariff exemptions to materials and supplies imported by the Rubber Reserve Corporation for the exploitation of wild rubber. A Committee composed of representatives of the Colombian Government, U.S. Embassy and Rubber Reserve Corporation will control the exploitation of rubber, but purchase and sale are unrestricted except that a price lower than that fixed by the government is prohibited. (N.Y. Times)

PRESIDENT BATISTA FREEZES CUBAN SUGAR WAGES and other phases of labor contracts for the 1943 sugar season. The decree says the same salaries will be paid in



1943 as in 1942, and included a provision that workers not needed in 1943 operations could be dismissed only after labor department hearings. Daily wage rates range from \$1.50 upward, depending on the type of work. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

MEXICAN HARBOR TO BE DREDGED and improved for war and civilian service. The work at Mazatlan, key Pacific port, will require about four months and will provide for the accommodation of more naval and merchant vessels than can now be handled. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

MEXICO PLACES BEEF CATTLE VISCERA UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL. Under the terms of a recent decree, the Ministry of National Economy will supervise delivery of these products daily to an organization established for the purpose, known as "Detallistas de Viscerasy Similares del Distrito Federal." This agency will purchase such products for cash and at the official ceiling prices established by a decree of November 16, 1942, in order that they may be retailed at fixed prices. The organization will furnish bond in an amount fixed by the Ministry to guarantee that the distribution and retail sale of viscera shall be carried out in accordance with official regulations and prices. "Frozen" viscera are for consumption by the population of the Federal District -- particularly by the poorer classes, whose diet is largely dependent on this product. (Foreign Commerce Weekly)

MANUFACTURE OF MEXICAN "HUARACHES" has grown into a sizable industry, and Mexico has become the largest foreign supplier of shoes to the United States. Imports of huaraches have grown from almost nothing a few years ago to more than 750,000 pairs a year, with a wholesale value of \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000. Huaraches are still made largely by hand in small establishments. Individual manufacturers usually pool their production with other factories for sale to this country. Originally each village had its own distinctive pattern but, on suggestions of United States importers, huaraches designed for export have been standardized in size and style. (Foreign Commerce Weekly)

MEXICAN SHIPS ENTER GULF HENEQUEN TRADE. The Marine Ministry announces that this Gulf coastwise service for the transportation of Yucatan henequen to New Orleans will increase the revenue of Mexican steamers and thereby make them better able to serve coastwise trade. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

PANAMA'S TRANS-ISTHMIAN HIGHWAY, the first ocean-to-ocean road south of the Rio Grande and a vital adjunct to the defense of the Panama Canal, will open for public use on April 1. (Christian Science Monitor)

JUAN JOSE DE AMEZAGA ASSUMES OFFICE IN URUGUAY. In his inaugural speech, President Amezaga announced that Uruguay intends to continue her past policy of vigorous support of the democratic cause, and particularly underlined Uruguay's wish to preserve friendly relations with her nearest neighbors, Argentina and Brazil. He warned his people that difficult times lay ahead, especially as a consequence of the considerable decrease in Uruguay's livestock reserves. Dr. Alberto Guani, Foreign Minister in the previous administration, took the oath as Vice President at the same time. Admiral Ingram, head of the United States naval representation, announced that Uruguayan military establishments would be made available to United States naval forces in the event of an Axis attack on South America. (N.Y. Times)



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U. S. Department of Agriculture  
March 12, 1943

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 479

WFB PUTS CONTROLS ON RAIL-SHIPPED COFFEE FROM CENTRAL AMERICA. The action was taken in one of a series of changes in orders which control imports into the continental United States. Heretofore there has been no restriction on all-rail shipments of coffee from Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador, and the new control is not established to curtail the total importation. Its purpose is to permit orderly marketing and equitable distribution of supplies among qualified roasters and importers. Other items affected by the amendment include dried chickpeas, copra, soybean and linseed oil cake and meal. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

ALL-SUMMER DROUGHT BROKEN IN ARGENTINA. The rain came too late, however, to prevent extensive and in some cases disastrous damage to crops. Corn suffered particularly, and it is calculated that about 75 percent of this crop has been lost. Argentina has been allowing the greater part of the corn crop to rot because of a lack of markets. This year's failure, therefore, is likely to produce insufficient grain to cover the necessities for stocks were unusually low. The drought also did much damage to livestock, many herds having been decimated by thirst or lack of pasture. It is calculated at present that Argentina has about one-third less meat available for export to Great Britain than it had last year. (N. Y. Times)

DR. HERMAN BARUCH TO HEAD NEW BRAZIL OFFICE. Appointed chief of the Board of Economic Warfare's representatives in Brazil, he will be in charge of 30 BEW officials and employees, largest staff of this agency in South America, and will be associated directly with the United States ambassador. (N.Y. Times and N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

CHILEAN LABOR LEADER urges labor in the Western Hemisphere to make its voice heard in postwar planning. The workers of Chile, says Señor Bernardo Ibáñez declared, are working harder than ever before to produce copper, nitrates, manganese and iron ore, all of which is sent to the United States. To keep production going, strikes have been eliminated in Chile by resort to arbitration. (N.Y. Times, Christian Science Monitor)

AMBASSADOR MICHELS OF CHILE EXPECTS VICE PRESIDENT WALLACE to visit and study production in mining and agricultural areas of Chile during his trip to South America this month. The Ambassador's statement followed a conference he had with the Vice President during which they discussed Mr. Wallace's South American itinerary. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

PRESIDENT RAFAEL CALDERON GUARDIA OF COSTA RICA has arrived in Mexico City with a party of 23 officials on a state visit to President Manuel Ávila Camacho. (Christian Science Monitor)

HAITI ENCOURAGES HANDICRAFTS PROGRAM. Supplementing an over-all program of agricultural development in Haiti, a weaving expert schooled in the handicrafts of the Appalachian Mountain area of the southern United States has been appointed to help direct expansion of hand weaving in Haiti. Development of other



manual arts is expected to follow the weaving project. "It is our plan," says the President of the Haitian-American Agricultural Development Corporation, "to finance and style these native crafts and channel the product to markets in the United States. The central project in Port-au-Prince will serve as a training school for teachers who can go into more remote sections of Haiti and transmit marketable handicraft methods to the women, children, and older men of interior Haiti." (Foreign Commerce Weekly)

ADDITIONAL MEXICAN MINES ARE OPERATING as the result of the expansion of Mexican mineral output for United Nations war needs. The Bank of Mexico reports an increase of 124 mines in operation in Mexico in the first seven months of 1942, raising the total to 1,896. The United States has entered into an agreement with Mexico for rehabilitation of key Mexican rail lines to permit further expansion in mineral output in 1943 for shipment to the United States. (Foreign Commerce Weekly)

MEXICO WILL SUPPLY U. S. CASTOR SEED NEEDS under terms of an agreement in which the United States, through the Commodity Credit Corporation, will purchase 225,000 long tons of Mexican castor seed during the two-year period beginning April 30. In addition to its familiar uses, it was pointed out, the oil of the castor seed is needed as a lubricant in aircraft operating at high altitudes and in extreme cold, and as a hydraulic fluid in retractable landing gear. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

INTER-AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WILL BE ESTABLISHED BY PANAMA, giving effect to resolutions adopted at several inter-American conferences. The National University of Panama will serve as a nucleus of the new institution to which other specialized natural scientific institutes will be added as circumstances permit. (Christian Science Monitor)

PARAGUAY SETS UP NEW AGRICULTURAL AGENCY to cooperate with the inter-American program for expansion of food and other agricultural products. Known as "Servicio Técnico Interamericano de Cooperación Agrícola," it came into existence through an agreement between officials of the Paraguayan Government and the Institute of Inter-American Affairs for a program to develop Paraguay's agricultural resources. (Foreign Commerce Weekly)

B.E.W. ASSIGNS BOTANISTS TO CONDUCT CINCHONA SURVEY IN PERU. The objective of the Peruvian party will be to ascertain the quantity, location, and accessibility of stands of cinchona trees. Expeditions also are being sent into the forests of Costa Rica in search of new sources of quinine. (Foreign Commerce Weekly)

DOCUMENT ON U.S., PERU TRADE AGREEMENT ISSUED by the United States Tariff Commission. This volume contains material which the Commission made available prior to and during the negotiations for the trade agreement with Peru, which became effective on July 29, 1942. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)



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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 480

March 19, 1943

WITH VICE PRESIDENT WALLACE ON TOUR IN LATIN AMERICA: The Vice President and his party were greeted at the Canal Zone by General Brett, Zone Governor Glenn Edgerton, U. S. Ambassador Edwin Wilson and Panama's Foreign Minister. The party went to the United States Embassy where they stayed over-night and left on the morning plane for Costa Rica. (Washington Post) Acting President Jorge Hine declared Thursday a national holiday to mark the scheduled arrival in Costa Rica of the Vice President of the United States. Commercial establishments in the capital will be closed, and political parties have agreed to postpone politics for the duration of his stay in Costa Rica. In Panama, President Ricardo Adolfo de la Guardia will welcome Vice President Wallace next Sunday at David, the capital of Panama's chief agricultural province and they will visit the annual fair there. From an editorial in the Estrella de Panama: Mr. Wallace... "comes from the people and rose from the people and has fought constantly for the cause of the people in a manner that gives the people of Panama special motives for expressing their approval during the time he is a guest in our House." (N. Y. Times) The Vice President is accompanied by Larence Duggan, State Department adviser on political relations, and Héctor Lazo, assistant director in charge of the office of exports of the Board of Economic Warfare of which Mr. Wallace is chairman. (Washington Post)

ERIC A. JOHNSTON RETURNS FROM 20,000-MILE AIRPLANE TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA and will report to President Roosevelt that they do not want "a South American WPA," financed by the United States Government, but would welcome American capital and management in joint, cooperative private corporations. Mr. Johnston made the trip as a private citizen to confer with leaders of government, industry, and labor. Asked to summarize his observations in Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Colombia, and Panama, Mr. Johnston said that he was convinced that just as the last century was a "British century," the next could be an American century if we sent our money, management, and technical skill "down the broad avenues of exploration and not the blind alleys of exploitation." (N. Y. Times)

OPA SETS PRICE INCREASE ON BANANAS from four Central American countries. Importers' ceiling prices for bananas from Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama have been increased \$1 a hundredweight. OPA estimated that the increased cost to the consumer would be 1 to 2 cents a pound. (N. Y. Journal of Commerce)

BOLIVIA EXTENDS ITS AIR TRANSPORT FACILITIES to serve wartime needs for improved communications between the high Andean region and the rubber and food producing areas of the north and east. Development of transportation has leaped directly from llama to airplane. The location of Bolivia's industrial centers on the lofty plateau makes this land-locked country particularly adapted to air transport rather than highways and railroads. Panagra has begun construction on a modernized airport at Cochabamba. Designed to be one of the most complete on the South American continent, it will cost about \$750,000 and will have long, modern runways, subterranean fuel storage, radio and meteorological facilities, modern night lighting and accommodations (Export Trade and Shipper)

BRAZIL TO STANDARDIZE DOMESTICALLY-PRODUCED AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY. The plan detailed by the Federal Council of Foreign Trade of Brazil provides for concentration by implement and machinery manufacturers on reversible moldboard plows, disk plows, harrows and cultivators of a standard type to be established by the Ministry of Agriculture. Retail prices for the standardized implements and machinery will be fixed by the Coordinator of Economic Mobilization with the advice



of the Ministry of Agriculture. Supplies of iron and steel are to be obtained on a preference basis and at the same prices paid by the Government. The Ministry has planned to purchase not less than \$250,000 worth of agricultural machines from domestic producers during 1943. (Export Trade and Shipper)

SÃO PAULO COTTON MILLS CONTINUE TO BE BUSY and domestic consumption of cotton during the current year is expected to reach an all-time high of 70,000 tons, according to the Department of Commerce. The local cotton crop is about 6 weeks later than usual. (Export Trade and Shipper)

PARACHUTE PROSPECTORS TO HUNT RUBBER IN BRAZIL FOR RFC. A spokesman for Secretary Jesse Jones reveals that a "task force" will drop men by parachute into jungle rubber areas, will rebuild the old opera house in Manaus, will take over 2 hotels and send a Washington expert to manage them. The most sensational aspect of the program is the scheme for prospecting by air. From the Manaus headquarters, planes will be sent over the jungle to spot growths of rubber. Rubber trees turn yellow in April, and the flying prospectors, armed with machetes and food, will bail out by parachute. Trails will be broken to the nearest river and the clearing enlarged to the size of a landing field. The planes will come in, and the actual operation of tapping rubber trees will begin. (Leon Pearson - Washington Star)

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK EXTENDS \$150,000,000 CREDIT TO BRAZIL. The sum, according to a statement in the Globo, includes credits allotted for the development of the steel industry, the Valley Rio Doce Corporation or Itabira iron mines, and electrification of both the São Paulo-Sorocabana Railroad and the Brazilian Central Railroad and other projects. This is the first time that figures on Export-Import Bank activities have been divulged in Brazil. (N.Y. Times)

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ESTABLISHES A MARITIME COMMISSION to control all vessels over 20 tons registry. The Commission will control movements and routes, take out insurance, control personnel and wages and all administrative activities necessary for operation of the vessels. (Export Trade and Shipper)

MEXICO SEEKS REFINERY EQUIPMENT. Efraín Buenrostro, general manager of Petroleos Mexicanos, the government-owned oil industry, is on his way to Washington to purchase "approximately \$10,000,000 worth" of refinery machinery to increase the efficiency of Mexico's oil industry. He says that the machinery is necessary to refine Poza Rica oil to produce high octane aviation gasoline. He adds that Mexico has been storing an average of 800 barrels of oil daily and eventually expected to supply other Latin American countries. (N.Y. Times)

VENEZUELA OIL LAW BECOMES EFFECTIVE. The special session of Congress passed bills governing the petroleum industry, including a substantial increase in royalties, and President Isaias Medina Angarita signed them. The principal provision of the new law raises petroleum royalties from an average of 11 percent to 16 2/3 percent for all. The cordiality with which the negotiations were handled was of strategic importance to the Allies because a large amount of the petroleum received by Great Britain comes from Venezuela, the world's largest exporter. (N.Y. Times)



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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 481

March 26, 1943

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

VICE PRESIDENT WALLACE DEDICATES INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES.

In an address inaugurating the institute at Turrialba, Costa Rica, Mr. Wallace declared that it will be a focal point of research in the field of tropical agriculture, drawing students and scientific investigators from all sections of the hemisphere. He predicts a complete change in living conditions of the Western Hemisphere as a result of experiments to be carried out by the institute. Despite the scarcity of building materials, the new research institute will be completed this year. The Vice President said a convention was being drawn up by the governments of all the American republics to assure the future of the institute, the foundation of which he espoused in 1935 while he was Secretary of Agriculture. He listed rubber, quinine, vegetable oils, fibers, and medicinal plants among the planned-experimental studies. He added that in the neighboring Rubber Experimental Station much progress had been made in developing a rubber plant capable of resisting diseases that formerly prevented the successful cultivation of rubber in Latin America. After the ceremony, Mr. Wallace, accompanied by President Calderon Guardia, left to visit Costa Rica's experimental rubber and hemp plantations. In his first speech to a Panamanian audience, Mr. Wallace said that agricultural production was destined to decide the fate of liberty among peoples of the world. A farm fair was being held at David coincident with his arrival. Calling the fair "a demonstration of the conquest of nature by the work of man," the Vice President said such demonstrations were "an inspiration for the future of the world." What is needed, he added, "is more and more production and thus greater hope for the peoples of the world." With the President of Panama he visited the picturesque mountain village of Boquete, in the heart of the coffee growing country. In a brief address in the ancient hall in which the first Pan-American conference was held more than a century ago, Vice President Wallace spoke of the vision of Simón Bolívar who called that Congress. Mr. Wallace was impressed with the agricultural possibilities of the highlands of Panama in the Chiriqui Province, and expressed the belief that with transportation and irrigation it could become another California. He was scheduled to leave for Chile and to return to the United States via Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia. (New York Times)

UNITED STATES LEGATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA RAISED TO RANK OF EMBASSIES. President Roosevelt has raised American Legations in Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador, the Dominican Republic and Haiti to the rank of Embassies. (Washington Star)

PRESIDENT PEÑARANDA OF BOLIVIA will leave April 2 for a visit to Washington, it was officially announced. (Christian Science Monitor)

BOLIVIA REMOVES CERTAIN TAXES TO ENCOURAGE FARMING. Included in the exemption are new enterprises established to process agricultural and livestock products. Only enterprises capitalized at less than approximately \$11,900 and which can meet standards established by the Department of Agriculture are eligible. Imported machinery, implements, and other necessary products are exempt from import duty. Five Mexican specialists have been obtained to assist in the development of agriculture. (Export Trade and Shipper)

U.S. TO BUY UNSHIPED PORTION OF COFFEE QUOTA FROM BRAZIL. U.S. Ambassador Jefferson Caffery and Brazil's Finance Minister, Arthur de Souza Costa, announce that the United States will start immediate purchase of the unshipped portions of Brazil's



coffee quotas for the quota years of 1941-2 and 1942-3 under terms of the Brazilian-United States coffee agreement signed in October 1942. This step was announced at a time when war obstacles to shipping were causing grave concern. Purchases will be made through the Commodity Credit Corporation from accredited coffee exporters and in conformity with New York Coffee Exchange standards. (Washington Star)

BRAZIL GETS 3300 TONS OF U.S. NEWSPRINT, temporarily ending the shortage that threatened to close the newspapers. (New York Times)

CUBAN TIRE PLANT HAS BEEN COMPLETED. Started in 1940, the project was temporarily halted by the war and was not placed in production until the Government was satisfied that manufacturing tires in Cuba would help maintain the economy of that country and help contribute to the war effort. The 1943 output will be confined to truck and bus tires, tubes and repair materials. Crude rubber for the factory was warehoused long before Pearl Harbor and will be ample to care for this year's production. (New York Times)

MEXICO'S PACIFIC COAST PORT AT MANZANILLO is becoming increasingly important as an embarkation point for shipments to Central and South America and for goods coming from these regions, according to a report of the Department of Commerce. Stating that traffic is practically at pre-war levels, business activity and employment conditions were reported to be better than at any other port in Mexico at present. The Department reports that the United States continues to take most of Mexico's imports, with the largest volume of increase in such essential materials as minerals, fibers, lumber, cattle, oils and oilseeds. Lighter wares, including huaraches, glassware, bamboo baskets, and filigree silverwork were also exported in larger quantities than in the preceding month. Among the more important imports from the United States were supplies for Mexico's expanding mining industry, and railway equipment. Wool, birdseed, canned beef, glycerin, casein, wines, cheeses, and pharmaceuticals were the principal articles arriving from Argentina. (New York Journal of Commerce)

MEXICO SIGNS NEW LEND-LEASE PACT. The new treaty, terms of which are confidential, superseded the agreement between Mexico and the United States signed March 27, 1942. (Christian Science Monitor.)

MEXICO INCREASES CONTROL OF MILK PRODUCTION AND SALE. Standards have been prescribed for certified and pasteurized milk and penalties provided for distribution of sub-standard milk. Licenses and guarantee deposits are required. (Export Trade and Shipper)